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COMMITTEE**

TESTIMONY OF

MR SHAY ASSAD

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

(ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY & LOGISTICS)

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS, AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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**Private Security Firms:
Standards, Cooperation and Coordination**

**Mr. Shay Assad
Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy**

Chairman Shays, Congressman Marchant, and Members of the Committee:

I am Shay Assad and I serve as the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics. Prior to taking this position in April of this year, I was the Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Contracts) for the Marine Corps and, as such, served as the senior civilian contracting official within the Marine Corps.

Prior to Government service, I spent 25 years in industry serving in a number of operational and contract management capacities, primarily with Raytheon Company. My experience includes serving as Senior Vice President of Contracts, as a President and Chief Operating officer of one of Raytheon's major subsidiaries and lastly, as an Executive Vice President of the company and the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of one of its major subsidiaries. I am a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and I started my career as an officer in the United States Navy serving two tours on U.S. Navy destroyers and lastly as a Navy Procurement Officer at the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to participate in today's discussion on Private Security Firms. I would like to take a moment to thank the committee for its support of our troops and all you have done to help with their mission. I would also like to thank the men and women who serve our great country. When I say men and women, I mean our military, government civilian, coalition, and industry partners. None of us could get the job done without the other. I am continuously impressed with the cooperation among all those contributing to the mission under very adverse conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other operating locations around the world. I am committed to doing what I can to assist them.

Mr. Chairman, our industry partners provide essential support to the deployed military forces that enables our forces to focus on their core mission. The Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition team strives to provide our warfighter the support they need, consistent with responsible management and stewardship to our taxpayers. We strive to effect timely acquisition planning, contract execution and responsible contract management oversight in order to provide our warfighters the contractor support they need to accomplish the mission. We are doing everything it takes to make sure our soldiers, marines, airmen and sailors are provided with the safest, most dependable, and highest performing equipment available within fiscal constraints, together with the logistics and material support necessary to ensure performance whenever, and wherever they are needed. We will continue to work everyday to improve the service that we provide our men and women in the Armed Forces.

I know your invitation letter had asked General Webster to respond specific questions based on his personal experience. I can not speak for General Webster but I can tell you that from an acquisition and contracting point of view, my focus with regard to activities in IRAQ primarily rests with supporting Major General Daryl Scott, USAF, the Commander of the Joint Contracting Command and the great men and women, both military and civilian, who serve that command. These men and women are doing fantastic work under the most trying of conditions.

You had asked about the roles and missions of private security firms operating in Iraq. The activities of private security firms include, but are not limited to, protective security details for government employees and dignitaries, site protection of buildings and other facilities, and operational staff-work that directly support reconstruction and relief operations in a complex contingency.

You asked what policy directives apply to private security firms on the battlefield. The governing DoD policy is found in DoD Instruction (DoDI) 3020.41 entitled “Contractor Personnel Authorized to Accompany the U.S. Armed Forces.” This instruction establishes and implements policy and guidance, assigns responsibilities, and serves as a comprehensive roadmap of policy and procedures concerning DoD contractor personnel authorized to accompany our forces. Chapter 6, in particular, addresses armed contractors. There are also various other service regulations that cover the use of armed contractors. The Army has also prepared a CONUS Guide for Supporting Emergencies

within the United States and Supporting Overseas Contingencies from CONUS Locations, as well as a guidebook for OCONUS Contingency Contracting.

The Committee had also asked what standards private security firms are required to meet before being employed by the DoD. First, there are the general standards of responsibility that apply to all firms entering into a contract with the DoD. These are specified in the Federal and Defense Acquisition Regulations, as well as specific agency regulations. More specific to armed contractors, DoD Instruction 3020.41 prescribes standards that apply to contractor employees to include medical standards, background checks, contractor direction and discipline, as well as country entry requirements.

The Committee also asked what types of training security firms provide their employees before being assigned to a battlefield environment. I can not speak for any particular company with regard to the types of training that a particular firm provides for its employees. That would have to be answered by the company concerned. I believe that the specific training required of such firms would depend upon the nature of the security provided and upon the individual contract Statement of Work. For example, the training for a company that is hired to provide protective security details to senior leaders would be very different from a company hired to provide static security, such as a gate guard. Some standard training for all armed contractors is described in chapter 6 of DoDI 3020.41. Other standards for training can be found in DoD Handbook 2000.12(H), “Protection of DoD Personnel and Activities Against Acts of Terrorism and Political Turbulence.” However, any requirement to train according to these standards, as well as

other mission specific training should normally be included in the Statement of Work for any particular contract.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the members of the committee for your interest in our efforts, and would be happy to address any questions that you may have for me. Thank you.